GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3480
ANSWERED ON:16.04.2008
EXTINCTION OF SPECIES OF BIRDS AND ANIMALS
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether according to the International Union of Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, several species of fauna and flora particularly vulture, etc. are on the verge of extinction;

(b) if so, the details thereof and reasons therefor, species of birds and animals-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to save these species of fauna and flora from extinction?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a) & (b) The International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources in their Red Data list (2007) has reported that a total of 560 species of animals & plants are threatened in India. Out of these, a total of 313 species including vultures, etc. are animals, while 247 are plant species. Amongst the animals, the number of reported threatened species in India is as follows:

(i) Mammals: 89

(ii)Birds: 75

(iii)Reptiles: 25

(iv)Amphibians: 63

(v)Fishes: 39

(vi)Molluscs: 2

(vii)Other Invertebrates: 20 The main reason for the decline in the number of faunal and floral species is loss of habitats of these species. The other reasons include anthropogenic pressures,incorporation of poisonous substances in the food chain due to intensive agriculture, horticulture, dairying, etc.

(c) The Steps taken by the Government to protect these species are as follows:
i) Legal protection has been provided to endangered wild animals and plants including Tiger, Lion,Elephant,Leopard,Rhino,Wild Buffalo,Tibetan Antelope,Marine turtles,Corals,etc,against hunting and commercial exploitation under the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972.

ii) The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended and made more stringent.The punishments in cases of offences have been enhanced.

iii) Protected Areas,viz,National Parks,Sanctuaries,Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves all over the country covering the important habitats have been created as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife, including threatened species and their habitat.

iv) Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Development of National Parks & Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.

v) The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

vi) The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of poaching and illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

vii) Strict vigil is maintained through effective communication system.